Laying of Eklakshmi-Balunghat Rail link for Headquarters of West Dinajpur district

186 PROF SOURENDRA BHATTACHARJEE. Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are taking any measures to lay Eklakshmi-Balunghat Rail link in order to have railway link for Headquarters of west Dinajpur district;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof, and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS): (a) to (c) Eklakhi-Balurghat new B G line project was taken up in 1983-84 and an amount of Rs. 3 04 crores has been spent so far on earthwork between Eklakhi and Gazol. From 1987-88 due to resource constraint, only token funds could be provided for this project. Progress of this project will depend upon availability of resources in the coming years.

Withdrawal of incentive scheme for new sugar factories

187 SHRI SURESH PACHOURI Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state·

(a) whether Government have blocked the issue of more licences under the new sugar licence policy;

(b) if so, the number of cases pending for issuing licences;

(c) whether Government have withdrawn the incentive scheme for new sugar factories and expansion projects;

(d) what are the main reasons thereof, and

(e) by when the applications for issue of licences of sugar mills are likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI SARWAR HUSSAIN) (a) and (b) No Sir After the issue of licensing policy guidelines for sugar industry for the 8th Five ear Plan *vide* Press Note dated 23-7-1990, the Government have issued 13 Letters of Intent for establishment of new sugar factories

As on 17-12-1990, 458 applications are pending consideration of the Central Government for setting up of new sugar factories.

(c) and (d) Sugar Factories which are established or whose capacity is expanded in pursuance of Letters of Intent/Licences issued under the licensing policy for the 8th Five Year Plan Period and after the issue of Press Note dated 7-9-1990 of the Department of Food, would be covered under a suitable incentive scheme to be announced by the Government for the 8th Plan Period.

(e) All the pending applications are under scrutiny and decision would be taken in due course.

Resumption of import of fertilizers

188 SHRI SURESH PACHOURI. Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India is likely to resume import of fertilizers at large scale;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor,

(c) whether such import is necessary in view of the rising prices of the fertilizers in the market in the wake of the Gulf crisis, and

(d) if so, the quantity of fertilizers likely to be imported during the current financial years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI RAM BAHADUR SINGH)· (a) and (b) India has all along being importing fertili-

zers to bridge the gap between assessed demand and indigenous production of fertilizers.

(c) Since fertilizer is a critical input for our agriculture, its import is unavoidable

(d) The following quantities of different fertilizers are likely to be imported during the current financial year:

(Quantity in lakh tonnes)

DAP	—	22.60
MOP	—	19.65
SOP	—	0 59
NPK	—	1 54

NDDB STC coordination in edible oils

189 SHRI SURESH PACHOURI Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the NDDB and the STC have decided to coordinate their activities relating to edible oil business in the country including market intervention operation, marketing of oils under the Public Distribution System and its import;

(b) whether Government have allowed the above coordination;

(c) if so, the details thereof together with the terms of the Memorandum of understanding signed by the two Organisations in this regard; and

(d) to what extent it has helped in reducing the prices of edible oils and also increasing the availability of the edible oil?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI JAYANTILAL VIRCHANDBHAI SHAH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Memorandum of Underanding was signed between the National Dairy Development Board and the State Trading Corporation at their level.

(c) The objective of the Memorandum of Understanding is coordinate the working of NDDB and STC in edible oils The salient provisions of the Memorandum of Understanding are as under —

(i) *Market Intervention Operation (MIO)*: While NDDB cannot share the responsibility of undertaking market intervention operations with STC, it would welcome STC assistance in strengthening these operations. To this extent STC could undertake marketing of oilseeds/oils other than groundnut and mustard oils in a manner that does not adversely affect the market intervention operations of NDDB

(ii) *Public Distribution System (PDS)*: STC can play an increasing role in the PDS by marketing edible oil in consumer packs. The two organisations will complement each other's efforts to this extent.

(iii) *Import of edible oils for MIO.* While STC will import edible oils for MIO, it will do so on NDDB's behalf and will charge NDDB its bare minimum costs.

(d) The objective of the Memorandum of Understanding is to clarify the respective roles of NDDB and STC with regard to operations in the edible oil sector. Increase in the availability of edible oil and reduction in the prices of edible oil is determined by the amount of indigenous oil available in the country and import of edible oil, subject to availability of foreign exchange.

Development of tourist spots in Uttar Pradesh

190 KUMARI ALIA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) what are the places of tourist interest both for foreign and Indian tourists which are proposed to be developed during the current year in Uttar Pradesh; and